

# **WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE**

**WISHA Services**

**Department of Labor and Industries**

## **8.40 Citing Point of Operation in Machine Safety**

**Date: October 31, 2005**

### **I. Background**

The machine safety rule has been rewritten for clarity and to update the references to national consensus standards. Prior to rewriting the rule, point-of-operation citations were issued to address violations not covered under specific rules; for instance, when a machine, such as an unprotected table or band saw, was used to cut material other than wood, or for a metal-working machine hazard, such as a press brake being used without protection on the die's opening.

While researching for the revision of the rule, we found that many machines had multiple industry uses with materials other than wood and that multiple national consensus standards applied to their use. We found the safeguarding requirements similar regardless of the material used. Specific rules could be added, such as the press brake section, to address many machines directly and that they had their own point-of-operation protection requirements.

We further discovered that many of the citations written were really trying to address other hazards such as nip and shear points, rotating, reciprocating or other moving machine parts. Separate rules for each of these hazards were written.

### **II. Scope and Application**

This WISHA Regional Directive (WRD), which remains in effect indefinitely, applies to all WISHA enforcement and consultation activities involving WAC 296-806-20028, point of operation. This WRD replaces all previous guidance on the issue, whether formal or informal.

### **III. Interpretive Guidance**

When an employer is using a machine that is not specifically covered in the Specific Machines section, WAC 296-806-400, an inspector must determine the type of hazard created by the machine action such as nip or shear points, rotating, revolving, reciprocating, moving surfaces or other moving parts. The inspector must then use the appropriate section in WAC 296-806-20030 through 20040 to address the hazard.

Point-of-Operation WAC 296-806-20028 can only be used when the hazard is not covered by the Specific Machines' requirements in WAC 296-806-400 or by the general requirements of WAC 296-806-20030 through 20040.

An example would be a machine that uses a jet stream of water to cut materials. This type of machine does not have a cutting head, a nip or shear point. It isn't a rotating or revolving part, but there is a hazard from the cutting action of the water. In this instance, it would be appropriate to use WAC 296-806-20028, Safeguard Employees from the Point of Operation.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mel James, Acting Senior Program Manager  
WISHA Policy & Technical Services

For further information about this or other WISHA Regional Directives, you may contact WISHA Policy & Technical Services at P.O. Box 44648 or by telephone at (360) 902-5503. You also may review policy information on the WISHA Website (<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/>).